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Drugs That Require Step Therapy (ST) Before Being Approved for Coverage

In some cases, AvMed Medicare requires you to first try certain drugs to treat your medical condition before we will cover another drug for that condition. For example, if Step-1 and Step-2 drugs both treat your medical condition, we may not cover the Step-2 drug unless you try the Step-1 drug first. If the Step-1 drug does not work for you, we will then cover the Step-2 drug.

You will need authorization from AvMed Medicare before filling prescriptions for the Step-2 drugs shown in the chart that begins on the next page. AvMed Medicare will only provide coverage after it determines that the drug is being prescribed according to the criteria specified in the chart.

You, your appointed representative, or your prescriber can request prior authorization by calling AvMed at 1-800-782-8633, October 1 - February 14, 8:00 AM-8:00 PM, seven days a week, and February 15 - September 30, 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Saturday. Customer Service is available in English and other languages. TTY/TDD users should call 1-800-955-8771 or 711.

Step Therapy Criteria

Step Therapy Group

Drug Names

Step Therapy Criteria

BISPHOSPHONATES

FOSAMAX PLUS D

Coverage will be provided if alendronate, ibandronate, or risedronate has been tried (at least a 30 day supply in the prior 180 days).

Step Therapy Group

Drug Names

Step Therapy Criteria

ESOMEPRAZOLE

ESOMEPRAZOLE MAGNESIUM

Coverage will be provided if two of the following generic alternatives: omeprazole capsules, pantoprazole tablets, or lansoprazole capsules have been tried (at least a 30 day supply in the prior 180 days).

Step Therapy Group

Drug Names

Step Therapy Criteria

HMG-COA INHIBITORS

ALTOPREV, LIVALO, ZYPITAMAG

Coverage will be provided if atorvastatin, ezetimibe/simvastatin, fluvastatin, fluvastatin extended-release, lovastatin, pravastatin, rosuvastatin, simvastatin tablets, or amlodipine/atorvastatin has been tried (at least a 30 day supply in the prior 180 days).

Step Therapy Group

Drug Names

Step Therapy Criteria

URINARY ANTISPASMODICS

TOLTERODINE TARTRATE, TOLTERODINE TARTRATE ER

Coverage will be provided if oxybutynin, oxybutynin extended-release, fesoterodine, trospium immediate-release or mirabegron has been tried (at least a 30 day supply in the prior 180 days).